

ADULT
PUBLICATION
CODE

FANTASTIC
SPACE ADVENTURES

Nº8

SPACE ADVENTURES

10¢

P AUG 18 1953

DICK
GORDON

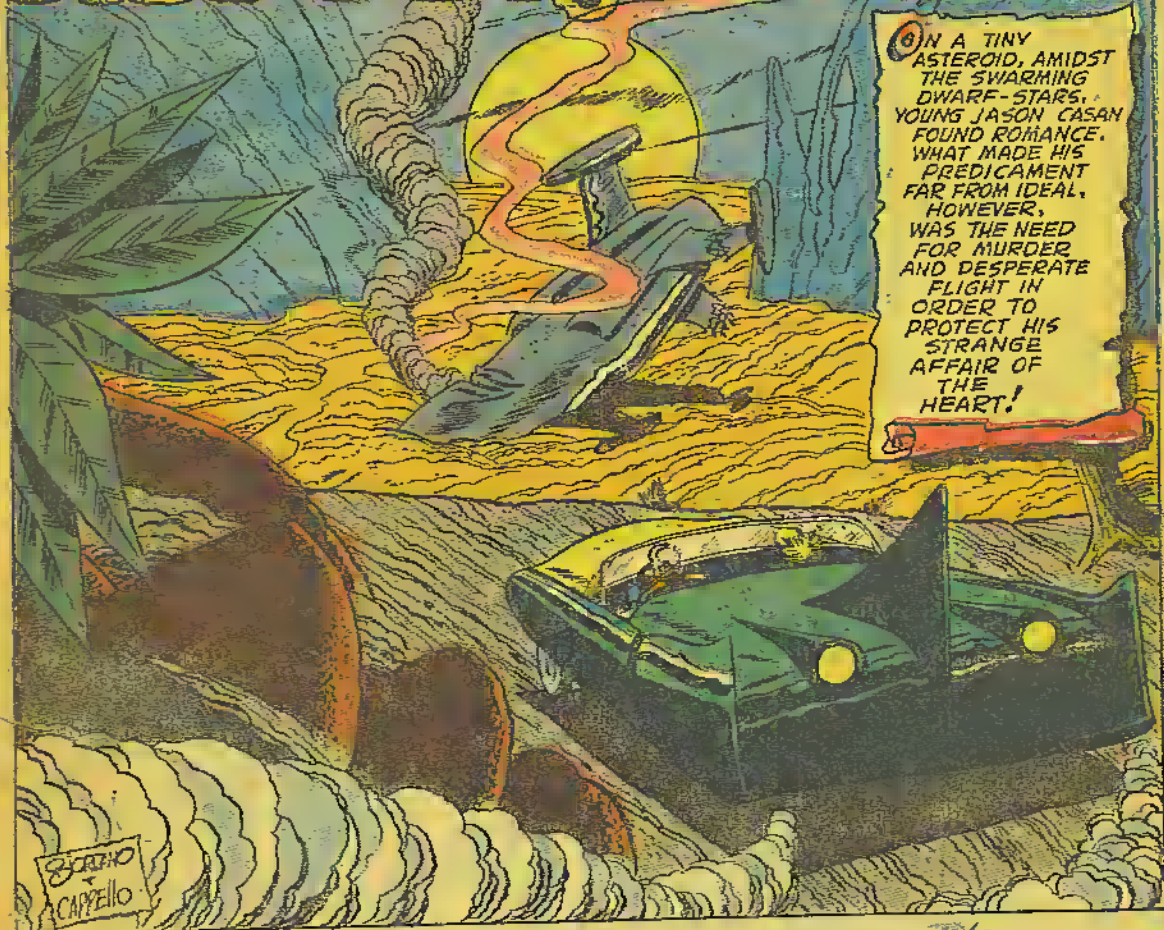
IN THIS ISSUE

READ ALL ABOUT THE BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT
CAUSED BY ROBOT WITH AN ALMOST HUMAN
HEART in "all for love"

[illegible]

SPACE ADVENTURES

ALL FOR LOVE



ON A TINY ASTEROID, AMIDST THE SWARMING DWARF-STARS, YOUNG JASON CASAN FOUND ROMANCE. WHAT MADE HIS PREDICAMENT FAR FROM IDEAL, HOWEVER, WAS THE NEED FOR MURDER AND DESPERATE FLIGHT IN ORDER TO PROTECT HIS STRANGE AFFAIR OF THE HEART!

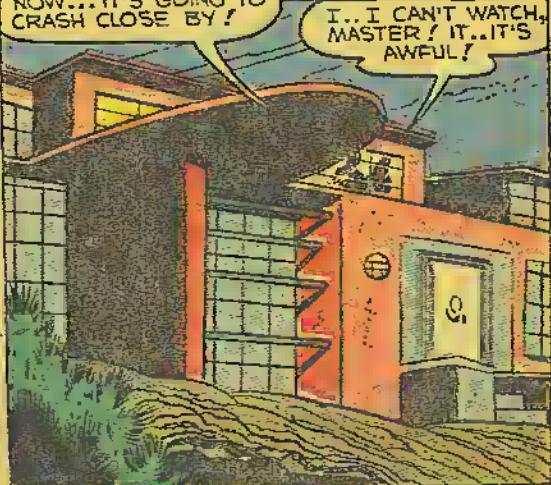
GIORDANO
CAPPELLO

FAR OUT IN SPACE IS THE ASTEROID CALLED "VULCA" BY EARTHLINGS. THERE, IN THE LABORATORY OF DOCTOR ARTUK, EXCITEMENT REIGNS...



COME QUICK, CLIO! I SAW SOMETHING TERRIBLE ON THE SPACE-SCOPE... A CRAFT SPIRALLING DOWN OUT OF CONTROL!

IT'S A MIRACLE THE CRAFT WAS ABLE TO STEER THROUGH THE DWARF-STARS WITHOUT BEING WRECKED! BY THE WAY IT'S ACTING NOW... IT'S GOING TO CRASH CLOSE BY!



I... I CAN'T WATCH, MASTER! IT... IT'S AWFUL!

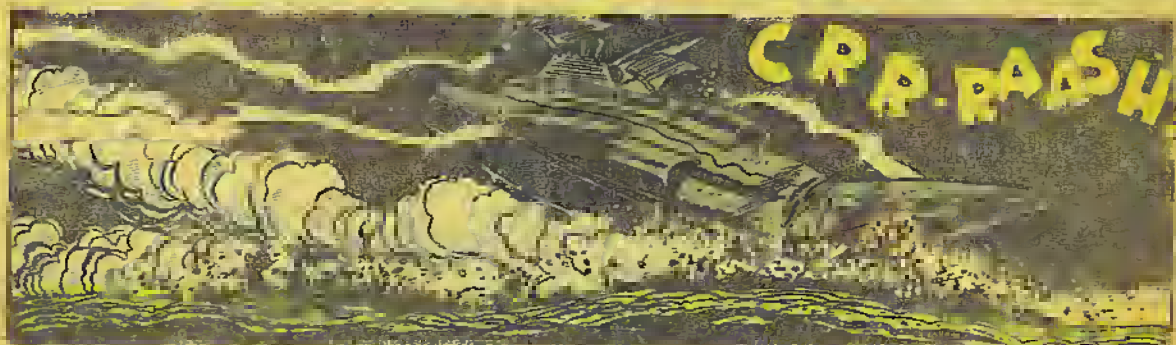
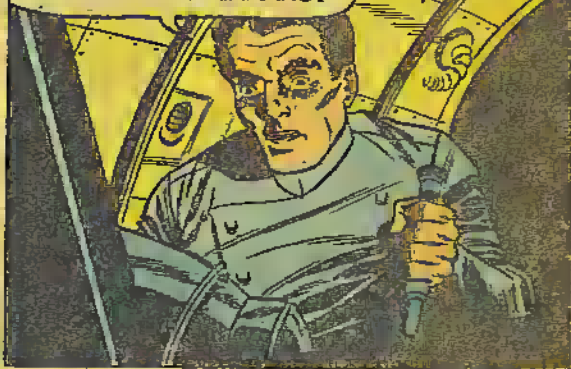
SPACE ADVENTURES

AS DR. ARTUK AND THE WOMAN HE CALLED CLIO WATCHED IN DISMAY, THE SPACECRAFT FROM OUTER SPACE HURTTLED DOWNWARD, TWISTING AND TURNING UNCONTROLLABLY...

THE ATMOSPHERE HERE... NOT LIKE THAT OF EARTH AT ALL! M-MUCH MORE GRAVITATIONAL PULL... MY LANDING ROCKETS WON'T WORK!

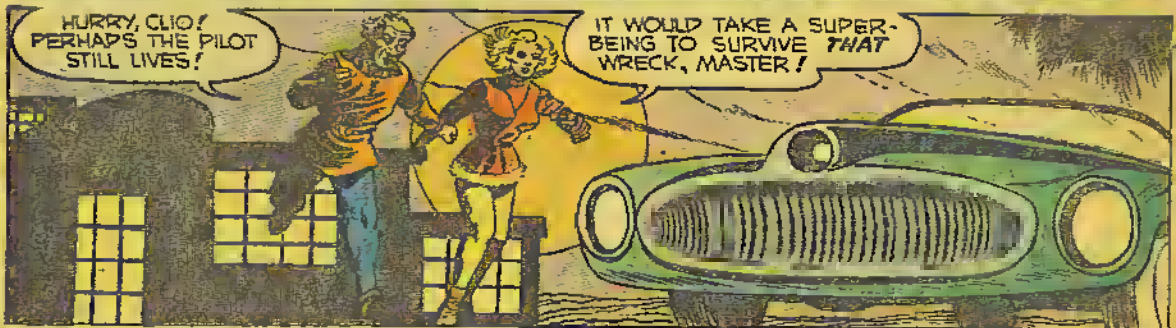


MY ONLY CHANCE IS TO LEVEL OFF... TRY TO LAND THE WAY PRIMITIVE AIRCRAFT DID WAY BACK IN THE 20TH CENTURY. THE ROCKET BRAKES ARE USELESS... HERE GOES WITH WHAT THEY USED TO CALL A THREE POINT LANDING!



HURRY, CLIO! PERHAPS THE PILOT STILL LIVES!

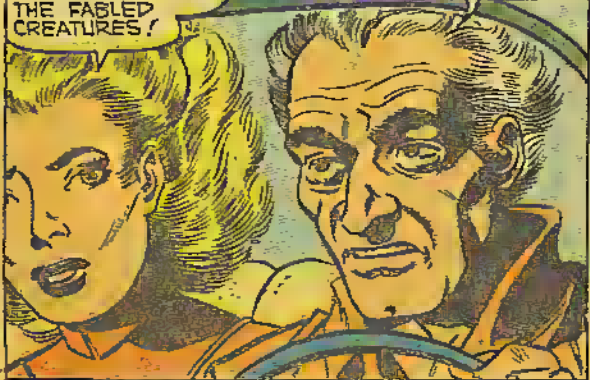
IT WOULD TAKE A SUPER-BEING TO SURVIVE THAT WRECK, MASTER!



FROM THE MARKINGS ON THE SHIP I WOULD GUESS IT CAME ALL THE WAY FROM EARTH! FIRST ONE TO GET THROUGH THE DWARF-STARS IN CENTURIES. AN **EARTHLING!** AT LAST I WILL GET A CHANCE TO LOOK AT ONE OF THE FABLED CREATURES!

ALAS! EVERYTHING INSIDE THE SHIP IS WRECKED... AND HE'S DEAD! MY! HOW HANDSOME HE MUST'VE BEEN!

HELP ME CARRY HIM OUTSIDE. THERE MIGHT STILL BE A SPARK OF LIFE LEFT IN HIM!



SPACE ADVENTURES



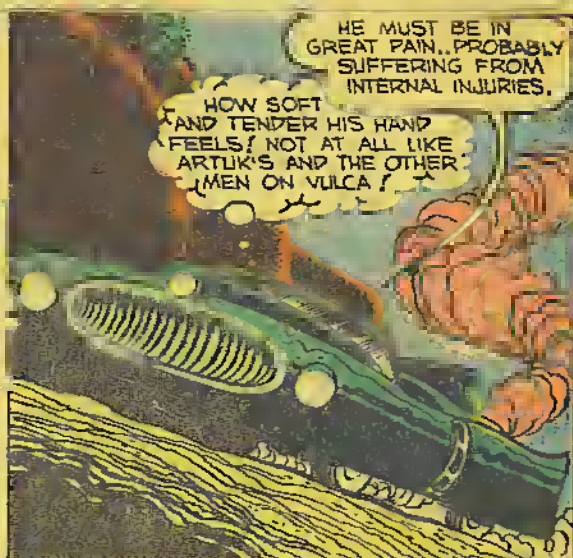
QUICK... INTO THE JETMOBILE! THERE IS STILL A SLIGHT PULSE-BEAT...

AN EARTHLING! I HAVE ALWAYS DREAMED OF MEETING ONE... AND THIS MAN IS SO BEAUTIFUL! IF ONLY HE COULD LIVE!



BY SOME MIRACLE THIS MAN SURVIVED THE CRASH...

IT IS A MIRACLE, MASTER! MORE THAN EVEN YOU KNOW!



HE MUST BE IN GREAT PAIN... PROBABLY SUFFERING FROM INTERNAL INJURIES.

HOW SOFT AND TENDER HIS HAND FEELS! NOT AT ALL LIKE ARTUK'S AND THE OTHER MEN ON VULCA!

BACK TO THE HOUSE THEY SPED. THEN, AFTER DR. ARTUK HAD USED HIS VEINO-NEEDLE, JASON BEGAN TO BREATHE MORE NORMALLY AGAIN...

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, JASON CASAN SLOWLY REGAINED HIS STRENGTH. HIS RECOVERY, HE KNEW, WAS DUE IN GREAT PART TO THE ADORING ATTENTION OF CLIO...

THE EARTH HAS ALREADY BEEN NOTIFIED OF YOUR CRASH-LANDING. THIS WILL COME AS A SHOCK TO YOU... THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE YOU WILL EVER BE ABLE TO LEAVE "VULCA". LIKE THE REST OF US, YOU WILL SPEND THE REMAINDER OF YOUR LIFE ON OUR LITTLE EARTH.



WELL... THE REST IS UP TO FATE. YOU WILL STAY CLOSE TO HIM... ATTEND HIS EVERY NEED!

BET NO ONE IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM EVER HAD A BETTER LOOKING NURSE! I COULD SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE HERE, CLIO, WITH YOU FUSSING OVER ME... BUT I'VE GOT TO GET UP ON MY PINS! THEY'RE EXPECTING ME BACK ON EARTH.



SPACE ADVENTURES



WHAT?

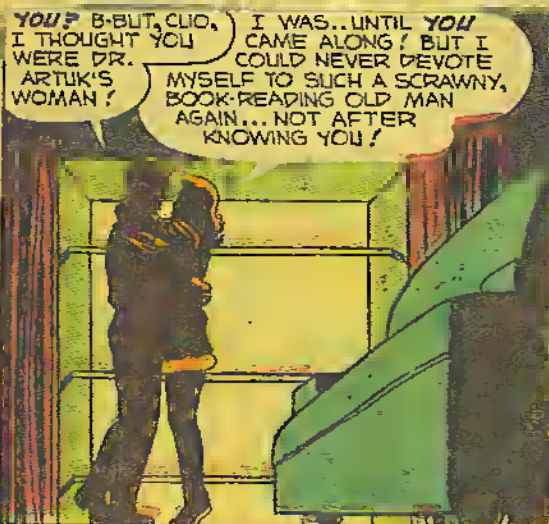
NONSENSE!
AS SOON AS
I GET MY SHIP
REPAIRED...

JASON, YOUR SHIP WAS
COMPLETELY WRECKED! EVEN
IF YOU **COULD** CONSTRUCT AN-
OTHER ONE.. THERE IS HARDLY
ENOUGH ROCKET FUEL ON ALL
OF "VULCA" TO GET YOU EVEN
HALF-WAY TO EARTH!



Y-YOU MEAN.. I'M DOOMED TO LIVE OUT MY
LIFE HERE.. ON THIS
GOD-FORSAKEN PIECE
OF SPACE-DUST?

I CAN MAKE THE
HOURS PASS PLEASANT-
LY, JASON.. IF.. IF ONLY
YOU LET ME!



YOU? B-BUT, CLIO,
I THOUGHT YOU
WERE DR.
ARTUK'S
WOMAN!

I WAS.. UNTIL **YOU**
CAME ALONG! BUT I
COULD NEVER DEVOTE
MYSELF TO SUCH A SCRAWNY,
BOOK-READING OLD MAN
AGAIN... NOT AFTER
KNOWING YOU!

THAT'D BE A
FINE WAY TO
SHOW MY
GRATITUDE TO
ARTUK FOR
SAVING MY
LIFE.. STEALING
HIS WOMAN!
SORRY, BUT I...

COME! HE TOLD ME
TO ENSURE YOUR RE-
COVERY. WE CAN DO THAT
BY SEEING THE WONDERS
OF "VULCA" WHILE
YOU'RE STILL RE-
CUPERATING!



RELUCTANTLY, AT FIRST, HE ALLOWED HIM-
SELF TO BE DRIVEN FROM DR. ARTUK'S
HOUSE BY THE RADIANT CLIO...

WOW! YOU
WEREN'T KIDDING
WHEN YOU SAID
"WONDERS, CLIO!"

YOU LIKE IT,
JASON? COME.
THERE IS MORE
TO SEE!



SO THIS IS THE
DIAMOND MOUNTAIN,
EH? SPECTACULAR!
.. STAGGERING!
NOTHING ON EARTH
LIKE **THIS!**

AND, DEAR JASON, THERE
IS NOTHING ON "VULCA"
LIKE **YOU!** YOUR HAIR..
YOUR EYES.. THEY MAKE
ONE TREMBLE WITH
EXCITEMENT!

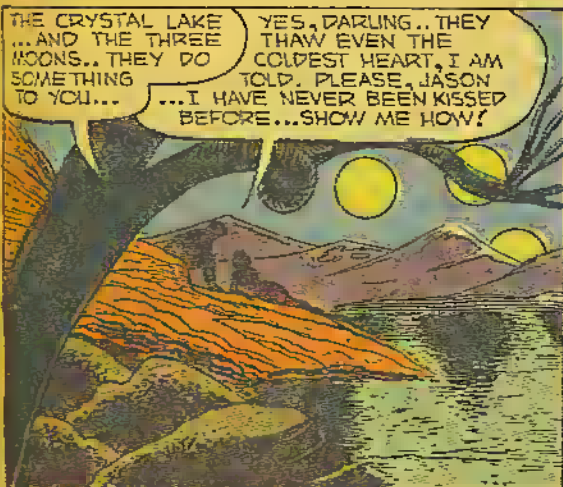


SPACE ADVENTURES

JASON FELT HIS RESISTANCE CRUMBLING. FOR SEVERAL HOURS THE TOUR OF "VULCA" REMAINED ACADEMIC, BUT LATER THAT NIGHT...

THE CRYSTAL LAKE... AND THE THREE MOONS... THEY DO SOMETHING TO YOU...

YES, DARLING... THEY THAW EVEN THE COLDEST HEART, I AM TOLD. PLEASE, JASON... I HAVE NEVER BEEN KISSED BEFORE... SHOW ME HOW!

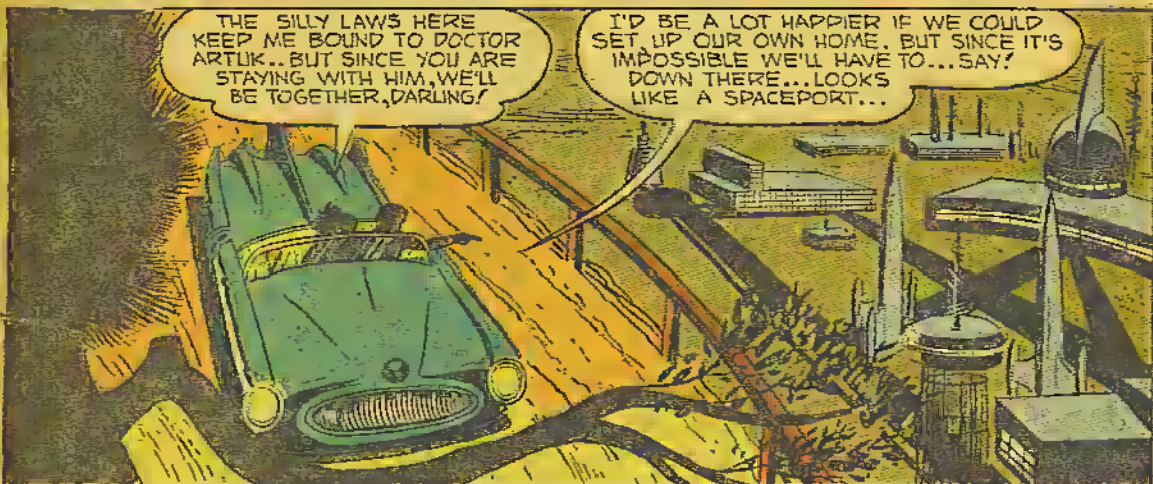


THE WONDROUS PERFUME OF HER BODY IN HIS NOSTRILS, POOR JASON FELT HIMSELF ENGULFED BY LOVE! ONE KISS AND HE WAS A CAPTIVE FOREVER!



THE SILLY LAWS HERE KEEP ME BOUND TO DOCTOR ARTUK... BUT SINCE YOU ARE STAYING WITH HIM, WE'LL BE TOGETHER, DARLING!

I'D BE A LOT HAPPIER IF WE COULD SET UP OUR OWN HOME. BUT SINCE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE WE'LL HAVE TO... SAY! DOWN THERE... LOOKS LIKE A SPACEPORT...



THOSE SHIPS... IF WE COULD GET HOLD OF ONE, WE COULD ROCKET OFF THIS SPECK OF ASTRAL REAL ESTATE AND...

...LAND ON A DISTANT PLANE? I'M AFRAID NOT, DEAREST! I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU THERE ISN'T ENOUGH FUEL ON "VULCA". THOSE ARE WHAT WE CALL EXILE SHIPS!

OF COURSE... I'VE HEARD OF THEM! CRIMINALS ORDERED TO LEAVE "VULCA" ARE PUT ABOARD THOSE SPACE-JUMPERS... SHOT BEYOND THE GRAVITATIONAL FIELD... WHERE THEY FLOAT FOREVER IN SPACE! NOT A VERY APPETIZING FATE!



EVEN IF WE WERE TO SHARE IT TOGETHER, DARLING? WOULD IT BE SO HORRIBLE THEN? ALONE IN SPACE... FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES?

IT WOULD BE A WAY TO ESCAPE FROM ARTUK, AT THAT! BUT UNTIL IT'S NECESSARY, BABY, LET'S STAY RIGHT HERE.



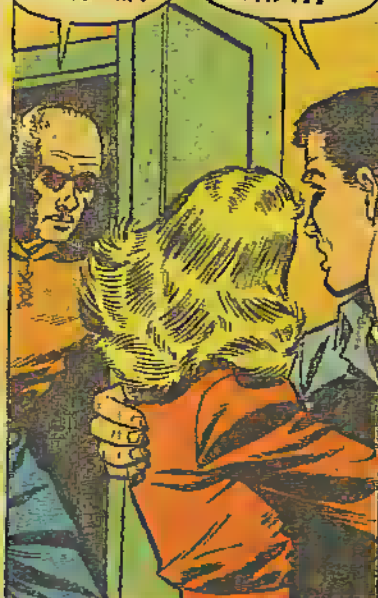
SPACE ADVENTURES

THE RAPTUREOUS DAYS PASSED AND JASON AND HIS BELOVED BECAME MORE DEVOTED THEN, INEVITABLY...



NOTHING'S GOING TO TAKE ME FROM YOU, CLIO! EVEN IF I HAVE TO KILL TO KEEP YOUR LOVE!

SO! THIS IS WHY YOU ALWAYS SEEM TOO BUSY TO HELP ME ANY LONGER, CLIO! GET TO YOUR ROOM... INSTANTLY!



HOLD UP, DOCTOR. I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT ME AND CLIO! WE'RE CRAZY ABOUT EACH OTHER, AND...

I CAN'T LIVE WITH- OUT HER, IF YOU KNOW WHAT THE FEELING IS! IF, IF ONLY YOU'D TRY TO UNDERSTAND!

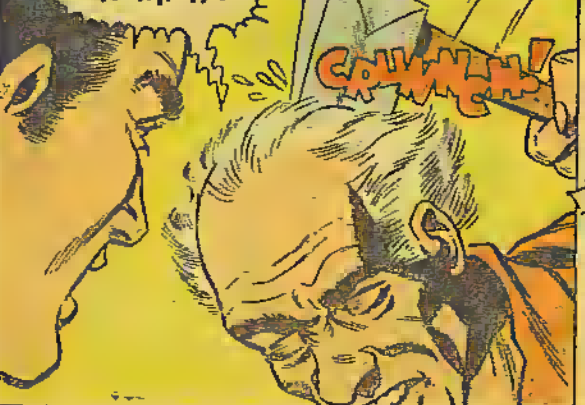
TO YOUR ROOM, CLIO..I COMMAND IT! I HAVE SOME THINGS TO EXPLAIN TO THIS IDIOT... THINGS WHICH YOU! EVIDENTLY NEGLECTED TO TELL HIM!



SHE'S GONE... NOW I CAN TELL YOU ABOUT THE MADNESS YOU PLAN FOR YOURSELF! HAVEN'T YOU WONDERED ABOUT THE OBVIOUS SHORTAGE OF WOMEN HERE? BEFORE I LET YOU TAKE HER...I'LL DESTROY HER!

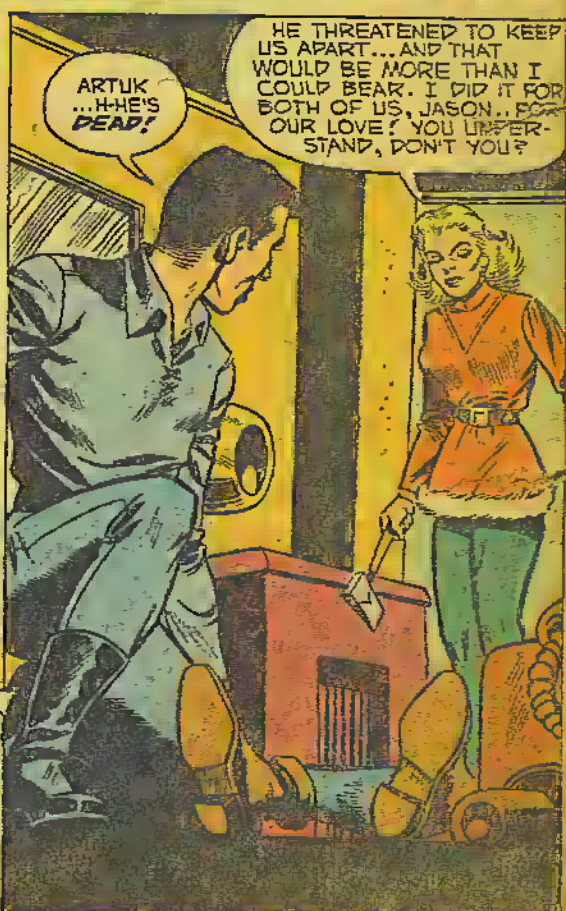


CLIO IS MY CREATURE AND... ARGHHH!

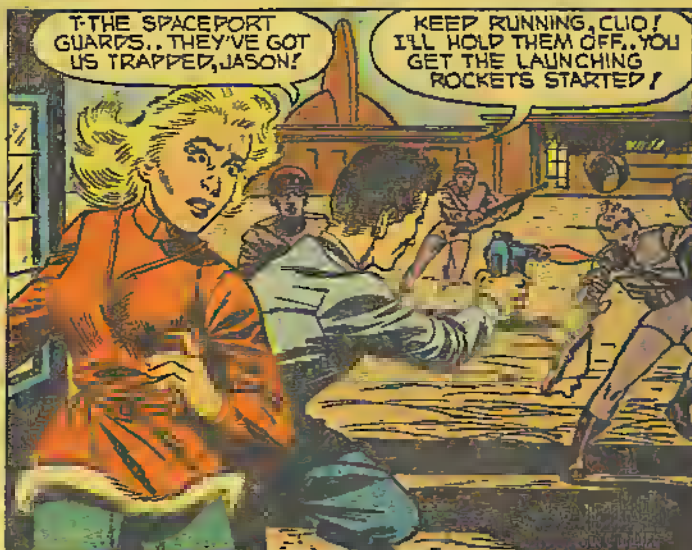
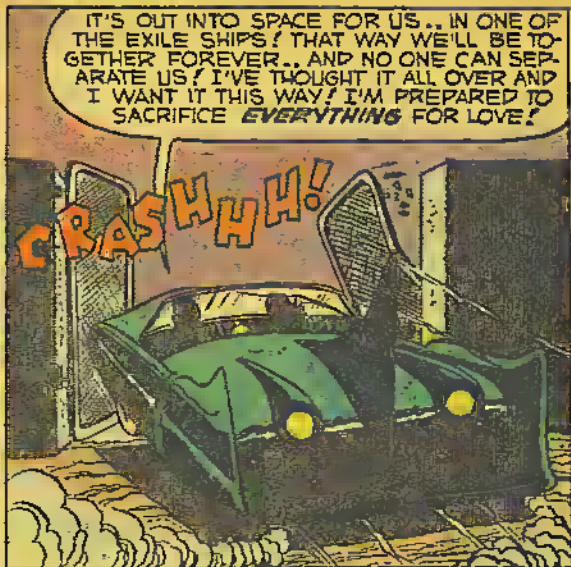


ARTUK...H-HE'S DEAD!

HE THREATENED TO KEEP US APART...AND THAT WOULD BE MORE THAN I COULD BEAR. I DID IT FOR BOTH OF US, JASON...FOR OUR LOVE! YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?



SPACE ADVENTURES



SPACE ADVENTURES

WITH AN EAR-SHATTERING ROAR, THE 'EXILE SHIP' BLASTS OFF, JUST AS THE SPACEPORT GUARDS ARE STORMING THE DOOR...



IT.. IT'S GETTING TERRIBLY HOT IN HERE, JASON?



BABY, PRAY THAT OUR FUEL LASTS UNTIL WE BLAST FREE OF THE GRAVITATIONAL PULL. UNTIL THEN, THEY MIGHT STILL CAPTURE US!

THE SECONDS TICKED BY... AND SOON THE SHIP BEGAN TO FLOAT LAZILY... ITS ROCKET POWER EXHAUSTED...

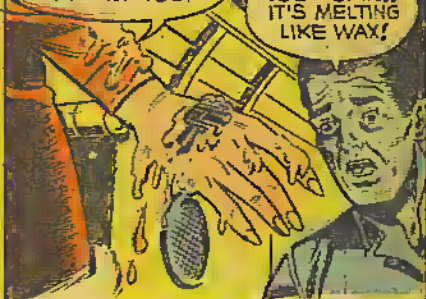
WE MADE IT, DARLING! WE'RE SAFE!

J-JASON! THE HEAT.. IT'S AWFUL!



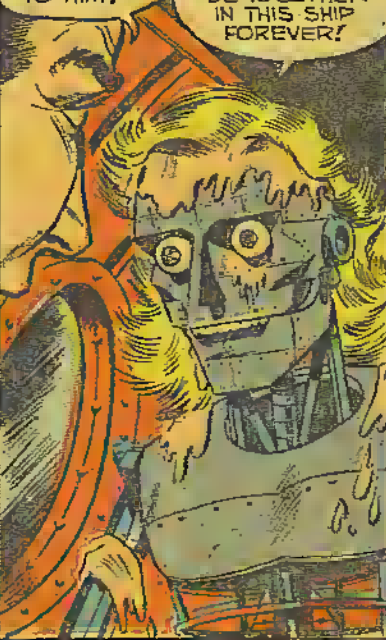
WE WOMEN CREATURES OF 'VULCA' CAN'T STAND A TEMPERATURE HIGHER THAN THAT OF OUR OWN ASTEROID! I.. I SHOULD HAVE WARNED YOU!

GOOD LORD! YOUR SKIN.. IT'S MELTING LIKE WAX!



Y-YOUR SKIN.. IT'S PLASTICON... COVERING A ROBOT? THAT'S WHAT ARTUK WAS GOING TO TELL ME BEFORE YOU KILLED HIM! THAT'S WHY HE SAID YOU BELONGED TO HIM!

D-DON'T HATE ME, DARLING... PLEASE! WE LOVE EACH OTHER AND WE'LL BE TOGETHER IN THIS SHIP FOREVER!



G-GOOD GOD! DOOMED TO FLOAT AROUND IN SPACE UNTIL I DIE... WITH... WITH THAT!



THE END

SPACE ADVENTURES

ON A DISTANT ASTEROID, CALLED "PHARISEES" SPACE VOYAGERS PLANNED TO ESTABLISH A THRIVING COLONY, BUT WHEN THE EARTHLINGS LANDED, THEY DISCOVERED THAT THEIR NEW HOME HELD HIDDEN DANGERS IN THE FORM OF A...

PET HATE!

THE SOLAR ASTRONOMERS WERE RIGHT... THE TRIP HAS TAKEN THREE YEARS... TO THE DAY!

THERE SHE IS... DEAD AHEAD... PHARISEES! OUR NEW HOME. ALL OUR TROUBLES ARE ALMOST OVER!

AT SUPERSONIC SPEED THE SPACE CRAFT FROM EARTH APPROACHED THE STRANGE ASTEROID...

SECURE SAFETY BELTS! WE ARE ABOUT TO ENTER PHARISEES' ATMOSPHERE!

WITH A TITANIC ROAR THE BRAKING JETS SLOWED THE HUGE VEHICLE'S PROGRESS...

STAN CAMPBELL

SPACE ADVENTURES

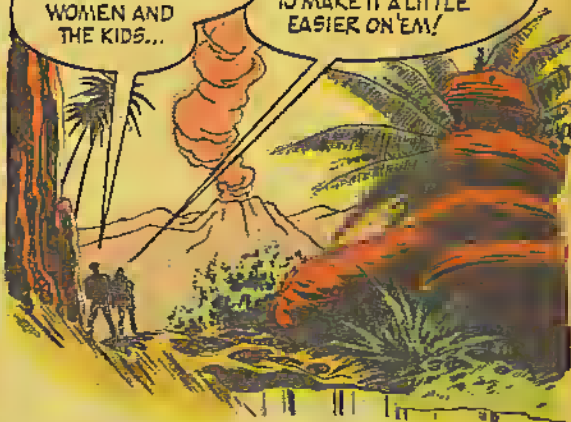
IN A FEW MOMENTS THE LANDING WAS MADE AND THE HATCH SWUNG OPEN...

HERE IT IS... THE PLACE WHERE WE'LL SPEND THE REST OF OUR LIVES! WE MUST SEND OUT A SCOUTING PARTY IMMEDIATELY TO LOCATE A SITE FOR OUR COLONY!



IT'S A STRANGE PLACE! I HOPE IT DOESN'T FRIGHTEN THE WOMEN AND THE KIDS...

WE'VE GOT TO FIND A LOCATION AS CLOSE TO THE OLD SURROUNDINGS ON EARTH AS POSSIBLE TO MAKE IT A LITTLE EASIER ON 'EM!



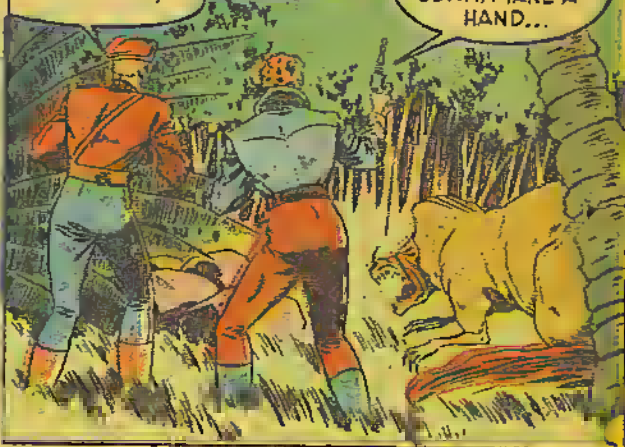
AH... THAT VALLEY LOOKS LIKE AN IDEAL SPOT FOR US TO LIVE IN! SUMMON THE OTHERS...

WAIT! LOOK BEYOND THAT CLUMP OF VEGETATION!



IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF OUR OWN PREHISTORIC PERIOD... ATTACKING A TINY CREATURE!

HE'LL TEAR THE LITTLE GUY TO SHREDS, I'M GONNA TAKE A HAND...



THAT DOES IT!

LET'S GET DOWN THERE AND SEE IF THE SMALLER ANIMAL IS STILL ALIVE...



WE WERE JUST IN TIME... HE'S STILL BREATHING! CUTE, ISN'T HE?

HEH, HEH! HIS EYES ARE BLINKING A MILE A MINUTE! WE'LL CALL HIM "WINKY". MAKE A GOOD PET FOR THE KIDS!



SPACE ADVENTURES

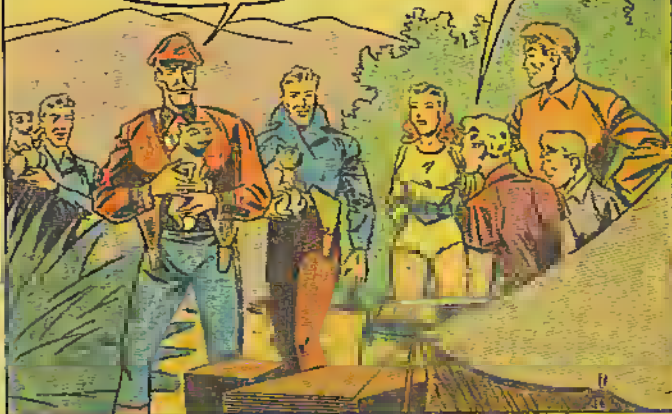
HELL MAKE A GOOD MASCOT... LET'S GET BACK TO THE SHIP, AND...

HEY, THERE'S A WHOLE FAMILY OF THE LITTLE BEGGARS, BATTING THEIR EYES AT US/ LET'S TAKE SOME MORE WITH US...



WE CAN FINISH UNLOADING RIGHT AWAY... OUR SITE'S BEEN CHOSEN! AND WE'VE ALREADY BEEN WELCOMED BY THE INHABITANTS!

OH, LOOK! CAN I HAVE HIM, DAD?



HERE, SON... TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM...

GEE THANKS!

I BETCHA MY DAD BRINGS ME ONE, TOO!



WEEKS OF TOIL FOLLOWED AS THE COLONY TOOK SHAPE AND BECAME LIVABLE, AND FINALLY THE SIGNAL WAS SENT OUT TO DISPATCH THE NEXT GROUP OF COLONISTS.

YOU WILL LEAD THE SEARCH FOR THE NEW BUILDING SITES. TOM, KEEP A SHARP WATCH... THERE MAY BE PIRANOSAURS LURKING ABOUT!



DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT... ONE RAY BLAST AND HE'S A DEAD DUCK! ANYWAY, THE ONLY THING THEY ATTACK ARE WINKIES! SEE YOU IN A WEEK!



MY DAD SAID I CAN HAVE AS MANY WINKIES AS I WANT!

I'M GONNA RAISE 'EM, AND SELL 'EM WHEN THE OTHER COLONISTS GET HERE!



SPACE ADVENTURES



SPACE ADVENTURES

RELENTLESSLY THE MONSTERS WERE DESTROYED...



THE SURVIVORS... IF THERE ARE ANY... HAVE FLED INTO THE SWAMPS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FOREST / LET THE NEW COLONISTS COME... WE'RE SAFE NOW!



PREPARING FOR THE COLONISTS TO FOLLOW, THE SINGLE MEN WERE SENT TO MAN THE OUTPOSTS SELECTED AS BUILDING SITES...

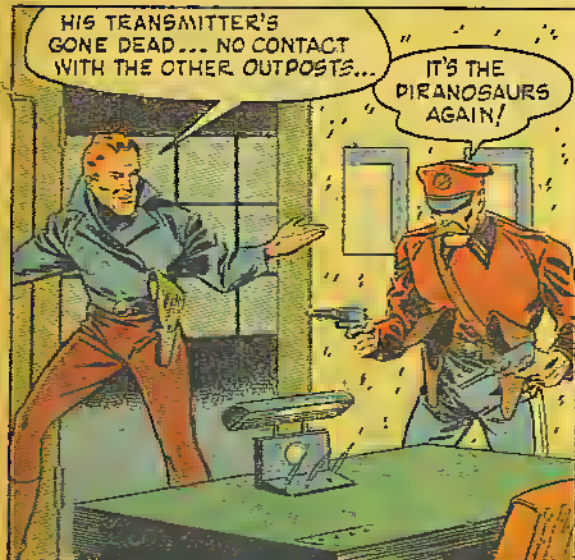


ALL WAS PEACEFUL FOR A WEEK. THEN, ONE DAY, ON THE MASTER TELESCANNER, AT THE SETTLEMENT...



HIS TRANSMITTER'S GONE DEAD... NO CONTACT WITH THE OTHER OUTPOSTS...

IT'S THE PIRANOSAURS AGAIN!

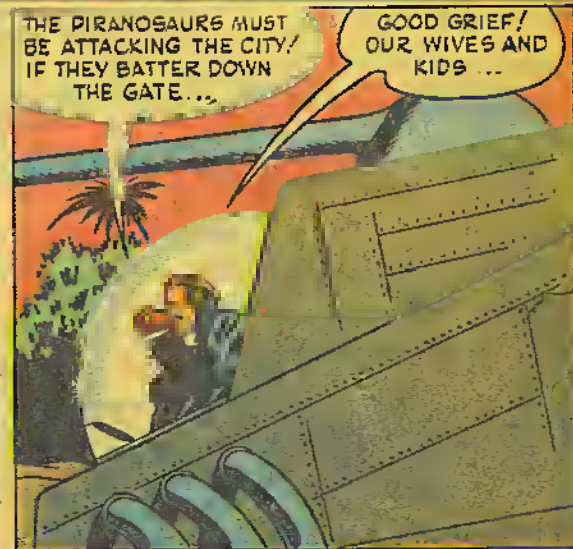


DEAD! HIS THROAT...

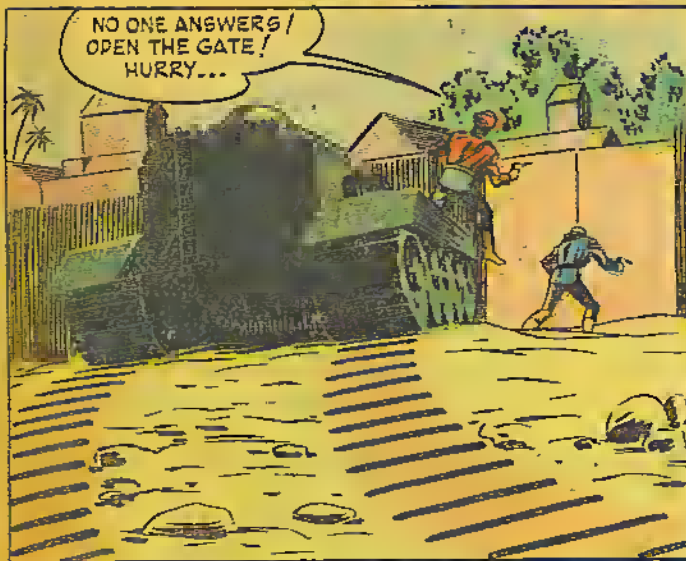
THOSE CURSED PIRANOSAURS! WE DIDN'T GET THEM ALL



SPACE ADVENTURES



SPACE ADVENTURES



The CYCLE of DEATH

IT ALL BEGAN WHEN PETER FRESNO AND I DECIDED TO EXPLORE THE LOST CIVILIZATION OF THE MARTIANS. MY NAME IS HUGH MASON, RESEARCH SCIENTIST FOR CARLON LABORATORIES ON EARTH--BUT THAT WAS LONG AGO... PETER AND I HAD BEEN FRIENDS SINCE CHILDHOOD--AND BUILDING THIS SPACESHIP HAD BEEN A LIFE-LONG AMBITION--FOR WE WOULD SOON LAND ON MARS--THE FIRST MEN TO CONQUER SPACE...

CUT THE STARBOARD MOTORS, PETER! WE WOULDN'T WANT TO VAPORIZE WHATEVER LIFE MIGHT BE BELOW OUR JETS!

ALWAYS CONCERNED WITH THIS "LIFE-ON-MARS" THEORY OF YOURS, AREN'T YOU, HUGH?

I'M SURE OF IT, PETER! THESE CANALS AND OTHER ARTIFACTS AREN'T HERE BY ACCIDENT! A GREAT CIVILIZATION BUILT THEM--AND WE'LL SOON EXAMINE IT!

THINK OF THE PRECIOUS METALS AND MINERALS! WE'LL BE FABULOUSLY RICH!

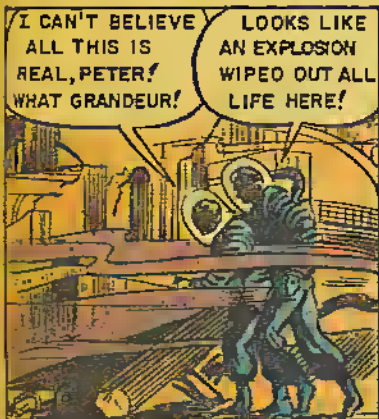
PETER, WE'RE NOT TREASURE-SEEKERS! WE'RE **SCIENTISTS!** WELL--THE ATMOSPHERE ISN'T POISONOUS! BUT WE'D BETTER KEEP OUR HELMETS ON TO BE SURE!

OKAY, WE'LL EXPLORE THIS PLANET FOR THE GOOD OF SCIENCE... BUT RISKING OUR LIVES FOR THAT ALONE ISN'T BEING REALISTIC!

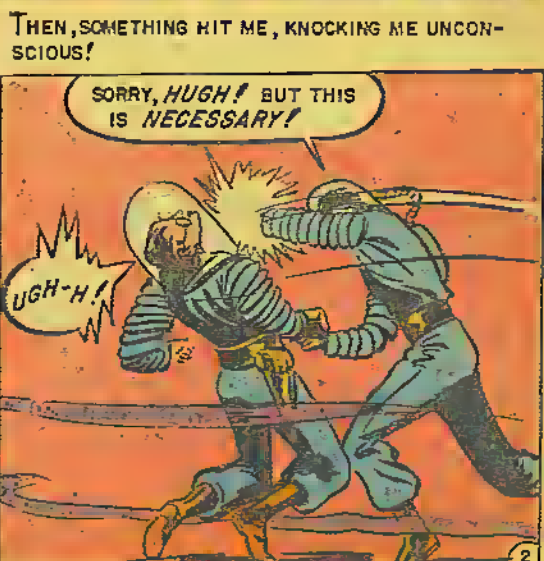


SPACE ADVENTURES

I HAD TO AGREE WITH PETER, I ADMIT, BUT THE THRILL OF ACTUALLY LANING ON AN ALIEN PLANET WAS REWARDING ENOUGH FOR ME! MOMENTS LATER...



WE EXPLORED AND EXAMINED THAT MARVELOUS CITY! THEN—JUST AS WE ENTERED WHAT LOOKED LIKE A LABORATORY...



SPACE ADVENTURES

WHEN I CAME TO, I FOUND MYSELF BOUND HELP-
LESSLY, FACING ONE OF THE WEIRO INSTRUMENTS AT
THE CORNER OF THE LABORATORY--AND PETER...

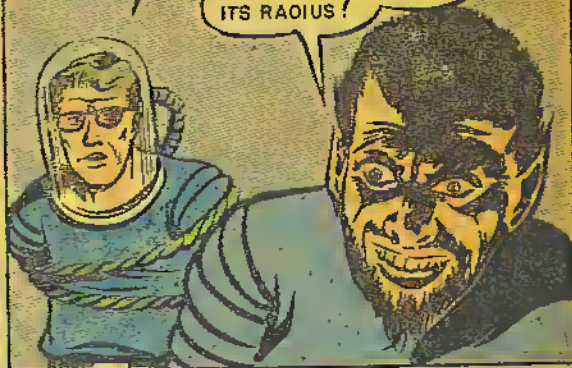


HAVE YOU
GONE CRAZY?

ORIGINALLY--I HAD PLANNED
TO KILL YOU--BUT NOW--
AFTER DISCOVERING *THIS*,
I HAVE ANOTHER IDEA!

YOU--YOU'RE
CHANGING!
PETER--STOP IT!
YOU'RE TAMPERING
WITH THE UNKNOWN!

I *KNOW* WHAT I'M DOING!
ACCORDING TO OUR MARTIAN
HOST--THIS CHAMBER CON-
TAINS A RAY THAT WILL
ACCELERATE THE
EVOLUTION OF ANY
LIFE-FORM CAUGHT IN
ITS RADIUS!



THEN, I UNDERSTOOD! PETER'S DREAM WAS ONE OF
PERSONAL AMBITION! AS I WATCHED, HE CHANGED
BEFORE MY EYES--A MAN TURNED INTO A *SUPERMAN*!



GOOD LORD!
YOU'RE BREATHING
IN ALIEN AIR!

YES! AS YOU
CAN SEE--MY
PHYSICAL AND
MENTAL POWERS HAVE DEVELOPED
MILLIONS OF YEARS INTO THE FUTURE!
I CAN UNTIE THOSE ROPES WITHOUT HANDS!



YOU'RE MAD,
PETER--AND
I'M GOING TO--

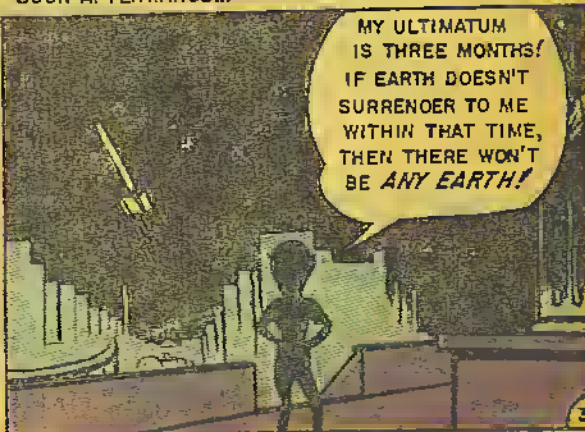
YOU'LL DO
NOTHING,
YOU FOOL!



OH-H-H...
MY HEAD!
STOP IT!

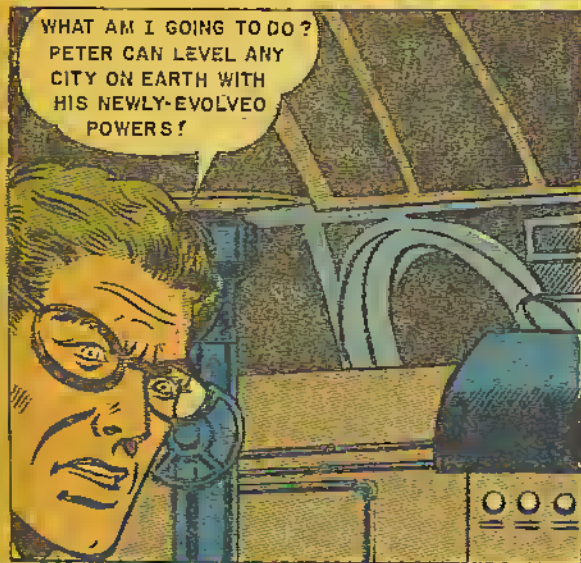
I COULD EASILY BURN OUT
ALL THE NEURAL PATHWAYS IN
YOUR BRAIN IF I WISHED! BUT
I *NEED* YOU! YOUR GOING TO
BE MY ENVOY ON EARTH! I
HAVE A *SPECIAL* MESSAGE
FOR MANKIND!

THEN, PETER ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION OF BECOMING
DICTATOR OF THE WORLD! CRAZY? FANTASTIC? YES--
BUT NOW *ANYTHING* WAS POSSIBLE! I WAS MARCHED
LIKE A PUPPET AND PLACED INSIDE OUR SHIP. AND
SOON AFTERWARDS...



MY ULTIMATUM
IS THREE MONTHS!
IF EARTH DOESN'T
SURRENDER TO ME
WITHIN THAT TIME,
THEN THERE WON'T
BE *ANY EARTH*!

SPACE ADVENTURES



SOON AFTER I LANDED, THE WORLD WAS ELECTRI-
FIED BY MY SPACE-TRIP...BUT GETTING MANKIND
TO BELIEVE IN THE HORROR SOON TO BE RELEASED
UPON THEM, WAS SOMETHING ELSE...



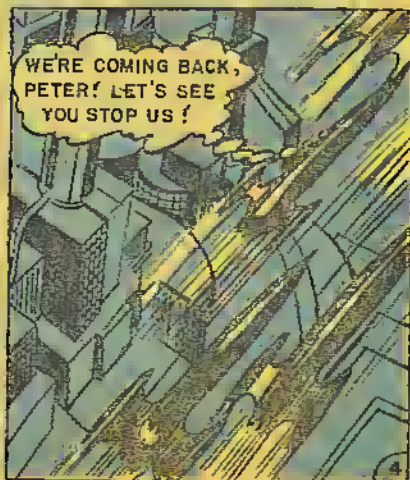
BASED ON MY PLANS, SECRET FAC-
TORIES ALL OVER EARTH BEGAN
MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR A
SPACE NAVY TO BE COMPLETED
IN THREE MONTHS!



ON ULTIMATUM DAY MINUS
ONE, I FACED THE PRESIDENT
OF THE NEWLY-COMBINED
'NATIONS OF EARTH'...



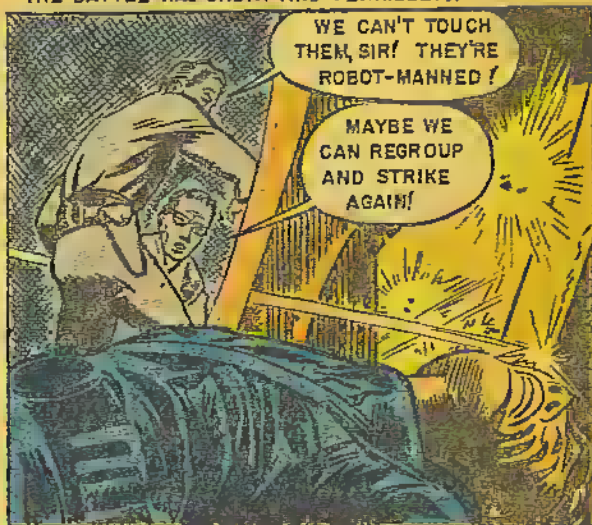
AND MINUTES LATER, EARTH'S
SPACE NAVY TOOK OFF TOWARDS
MARS!



SPACE ADVENTURES

ALL THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF MANKIND HAD GONE INTO THESE SHIPS. HOW COULD ANYTHING STOP US? BUT I HAD RECKONED WITHOUT THE WISDOM OF MARS-- FOR HOURS LATER IN MID-SPACE...

THE BATTLE WAS SHORT AND TERRIBLE...

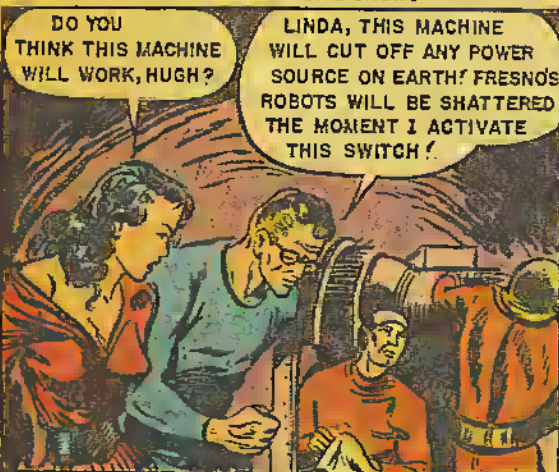


BUT EARTH WAS A MASS OF RUBBLE! FRESNO HAD FULFILLED HIS ULTIMATUM...

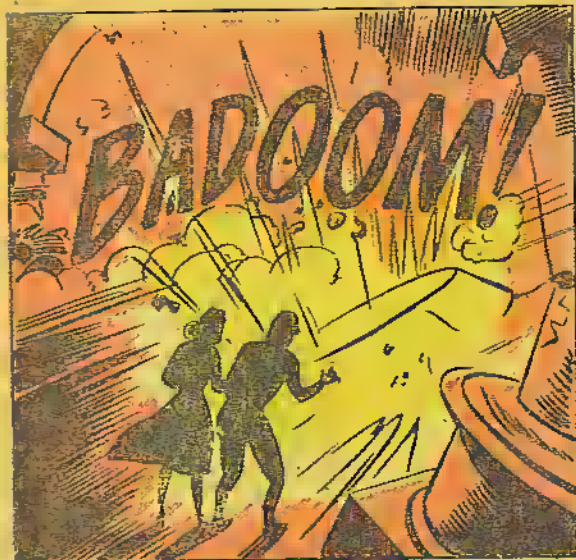


SPACE ADVENTURES

NOW CAME MONTHS OF SACRIFICE AND SUFFERING. A HUNDRED OF US WERE LEFT! AND ONE YEAR AFTERWARDS WE WERE READY TO COME BACK!



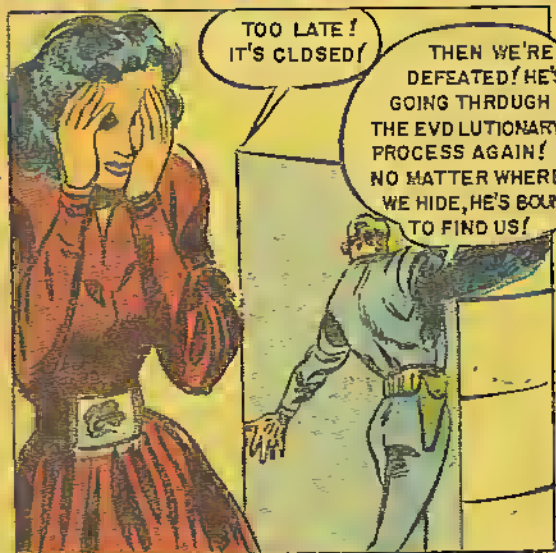
SPACE ADVENTURES



WHEN THE SMOKE HAD CLEARED, THE ROBOTS GUARDING US HAD BEEN SHATTERED -- AND PETER FRESNO WAS CRAWLING TOWARDS THE EVOLUTION CHAMBER...



THE EXPLOSION HAS NUMBED FRESNO'S MIND -- OR ELSE HE WOULD HAVE KILLED US BY HIS OWN MENTAL FORCE! QUICK -- DON'T LET HIM REACH THAT ROOM!



TOO LATE!
IT'S CLOSED!

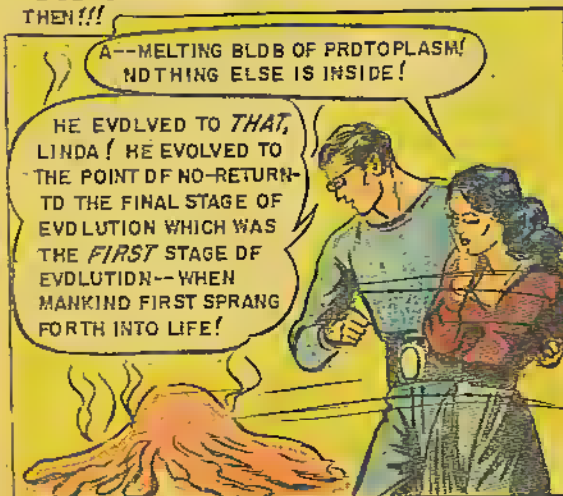
THEN WE'RE DEFEATED! HE'S GOING THROUGH THE EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS AGAIN! NO MATTER WHERE WE HIDE, HE'S BOUND TO FIND US!

WE STOOD THERE NUMB WITH HORROR. HOW COULD MORE HUMANS FIGHT A CREATURE ALREADY EVOLVED BILLIONS OF YEARS INTO THE FUTURE?...



IT'S
OPENING!

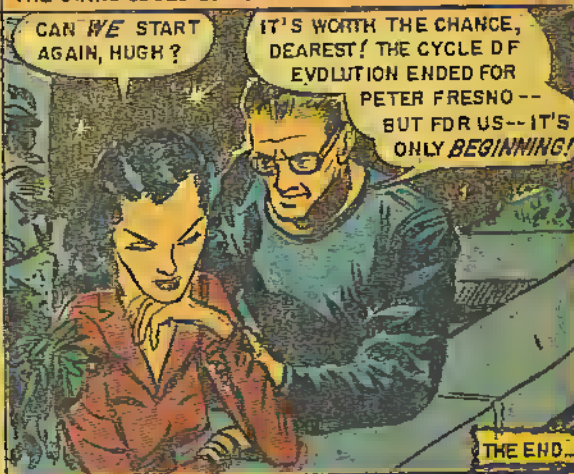
WOULD TAUNTING LAUGHTER RING OUT? WOULD WE BE OBLITERATED BY A BOLT FROM NOWHERE? THEN!!!



A -- MELTING BLOB OF PROTOPLASM!
NOTHING ELSE IS INSIDE!

HE EVOLVED TO THAT, LINDA! HE EVOLVED TO THE POINT OF NO-RETURN TO THE FINAL STAGE OF EVOLUTION WHICH WAS THE FIRST STAGE OF EVOLUTION -- WHEN MANKIND FIRST SPANG FORTH INTO LIFE!

WE SILENTLY LINKED ARMS AND WALKED OUT INTO THE CORRIDOR WHERE THE MARTIAN LANDSCAPE -- AND THE STARS COULD BE SEEN!



CAN WE START AGAIN, HUGH?

IT'S WORTH THE CHANCE, DEAREST! THE CYCLE OF EVOLUTION ENDED FOR PETER FRESNO -- BUT FOR US -- IT'S ONLY BEGINNING!

THE END...

SPACE ADVENTURES

FIRST CONTACT!!

WORLD FAMOUS FOOD CONNOISSEUR, CARL SOMAK, WAS ENJOYING HIMSELF AT HIS USUAL PASTIME... STUFFING HIMSELF WITH FOOD, AND WITH HIM WERE HIS TWO FRIENDS, WALTER TRASK AND HENRY STEVENS.....

THIS RARE MEAT FROM AFRICA IS DELIGHTFUL, CARL! I SHOULD COMPLEMENT YOU ON YOUR TASTE!

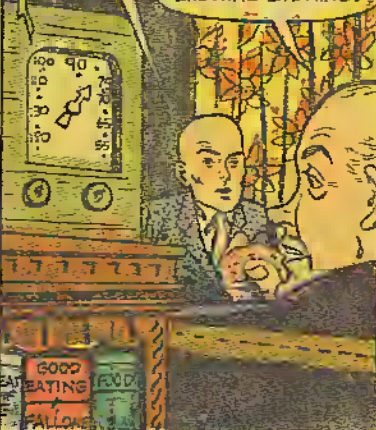
THANK YOU, WALTER! THE WARDEN KILLED THESE BEEF-ANIMALS ESPECIALLY FOR US! MY... BUT IT MELTS RIGHT IN ONE'S MOUTH!



"WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM TO ANNOUNCE THAT ALIEN VISITORS HAVE LANDED FROM OUTER SPACE. CHATAM FIELD IS CROWDED WITH SPECTATORS."

ALIENS! IT SEEMS FANTASTIC!!

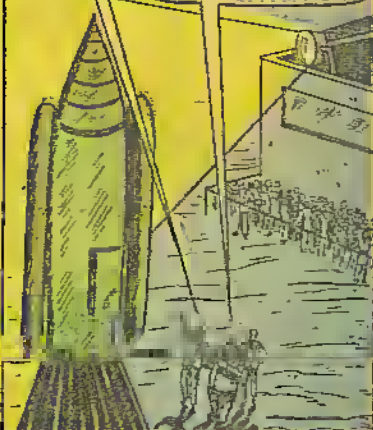
WELL... I FOR ONE INTEND SEEING THEM! COME ALONG. THIS SHOULD BE AN EXCITING EVENING!



AT THE FIELD LATER.....

NOTHING'S HAPPENING! PATIENCE! THAT WEIRD SHIP HASN'T MOVED AN INCH SINCE WE ARRIVED!

LOOK A DOOR IS OPENING! BURP... ALL THIS EXCITEMENT ISN'T DOING MY STOMACH GOOD!



HELP! WE'RE BEING DRAGGED INSIDE!

DO SOMETHING. THEY MAY BE DANGEROUS!



WELCOME, EARTHLINGS! WE ARE GENEBIANS AND INTEND NO HARM! BUT YOUR ATMOSPHERE IS POISONOUS TO US... REGARDLESS OF WHAT PRECAUTIONS WE USE! YOU WILL BE TAKEN TO OUR PLANET AS SPECIAL ENVOYS! YOUR EVERY CARE SHALL BE ADMINISTERED!

IT... IT'S SOMEWHAT UNEXPECTED... BUT SINCE WE HAVE NO CHOICE, WE'RE AT YOUR DISPOSAL!



EAT AND DRINK! WE ARE NOW CONTACTING OUR PEOPLE TO PREPARE EVERY FACILITY! FOR YOU REPRESENT THE BILLIONS ON YOUR PLANET. YOU KNOW... AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION ON MY OWN PEOPLE!

REST ASSURED WE WILL! CHOMP... CHOMP!... SAY THIS VENISON IS GOOD... REALLY GOOD!



AND AT THE DINNER-TABLE OF THE WORLD-FAMOUS GENEBIAN CONNOISSEUR, CARL-LARLOG, LATER.....



THIS RARE MEAT FROM EARTH IS DELIGHTFUL, CARL! I SHOULD COMPLEMENT YOU ON YOUR TASTE!

THANK YOU, ZORT! THE GAME-WARDEN KILLED THESE EARTHLINGS ESPECIALLY FOR US! MY... BUT IT MELTS RIGHT IN ONE'S MOUTH! I THINK WE'LL BE EATING MORE OF THIS DELICIOUS FOOD SOON... VERY SOON!

THE END

TO HIS SPACE-STATION
IN A DISTANT SOLAR SYSTEM,
DR. JON FLYK RETURNED
WITH STARTLING NEWS OF AN
UNEXPLORED PLANET CAPABLE
OF SUSTAINING HUMAN LIFE.
THE PROOF HE BROUGHT
BACK WAS THE...

Flower FROM PHARAOH

PERHAPS OUR
DESPERATE SEARCH FOR
SPACE IN WHICH TO LIVE IS
NOW OVER! IF THIS LIVES AND
GROWS ON THE PLANET WE CALL
"PHARAOH"... THEN HUMANS
CAN SURVIVE THERE!

IT LOOKS LIKE
ONE OF THE MANY
VINES THAT GREW ON
EARTH... BEFORE WE
WERE FORCED
TO FLEE!

IN THE YEAR 2701, THE
DISCOVERY OF ANY LIVING
THING IN THE COSMOS WAS
OF BREATHTAKING SIGNIFICANCE...

YOU THINK PERHAPS WE
WILL BE ABLE TO COLONIZE
THIS PLANET CALLED
PHARAOH, DR. FLYK?

YOUR GENERATION KNOWS
LITTLE OF WORLD WAR V, AND
THE VIRTUAL EXTINCTION OF CIVILIZATION
WHICH FOLLOWED. WHEN THE SUN DIED,
A HANDFUL OF SURVIVORS ESCAPED
TO THIS SOLAR SYSTEM... TO THE
ASTEROID CALLED EARTH-2. IT TOOK US
20 YEARS TO ESTABLISH THIS SPACE-STATION...
20 YEARS IN WHICH
EARTH-2 HAS
BECOME
DANGEROUSLY
OVERCROWDED...

WE MUST FIND
SUCH A PLACE, MARCUS,
IN ORDER NOT TO PERISH
FROM OVERCROWDING!



SPACE ADVENTURES

...AND THAT'S WHY I'M SO EXCITED ABOUT FINDING THIS OUT IN SPACE! IT'S THE ONLY SIGN OF LIFE WE'VE DISCOVERED IN THIS SOLAR SYSTEM! IF THE PLANT CAN EXIST ON PHARAOH... THEN SO CAN HUMANS!

A PLACE TO SEND THE OVERPOPULATION OF EARTH-2, EH?

DAYS OF INTENSE OBSERVATION PASSED, AND SLOWLY THE PLANT BEGAN TO FLOWER. THEN, ONE MORNING...

WE MUST LEARN, BY STUDYING THIS PLANT, WHAT IS REQUIRED TO SUSTAIN LIFE ON PHARAOH. YOU ARE A SKILLED BOTANIST, MARCUS...

I'LL MOVE JULIA AND OUR SON RIGHT INTO THE LABORATORY, DR. FLYK! WE'LL TEND THIS FLOWER OF PHARAOH AS IF OUR LIVES DEPENDED ON IT!

TODAY... YAWN... SHOULD END OUR EXPERIMENTS, JULIA! THE PLANT SHOULD HAVE BLOOMED AND... SAY, WHERE'S LITTLE NOAH?

PROBABLY UP ALREADY AND PLAYING WITH THAT THING DR. FLYK BROUGHT BACK FROM PHARAOH! IT'S BEGINNING TO BORE ME...

G-GOOD JUPITER! LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE PLANT OVERNIGHT! IT SEEMS TO HAVE TENTACLES...

WAAAAAH!

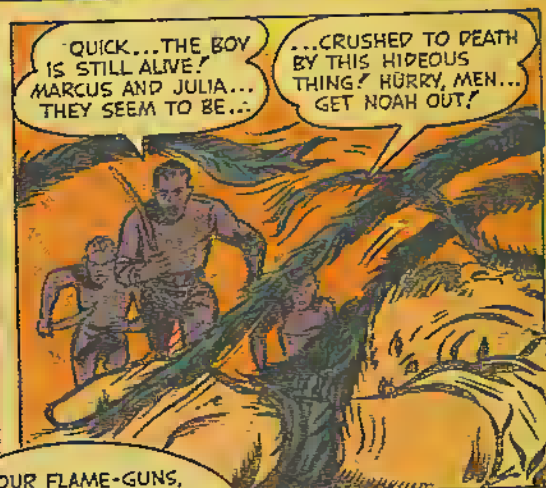
D-DON'T BE AFRAID, NOAH... I HAVE MOST OF IT CUT AWAY NOW! ANOTHER MINUTE AND THE CURSED THING...

I-I'D BETTER CALL DR. FLYK!

...AND THE FIRST SIGN OF ACCELERATED GROWTH WAS THE APPEARANCE OF A FLOWER, MARCUS? OUR COURSE IS CLEAR! WE MUST...

...D-DESTROY THE HIDEOUS THING BEFORE IT DESTROYS US! IT'S EVIL, DR. FLYK! AS A BOTANIST I KNOW...

SPACE ADVENTURES



SPACE ADVENTURES

IN A FEW MINUTES, JETS FROM THE MOTHER ASTEROID STREAK ACROSS THE SPACE STATION...



W-MUST DESTROY IT... IT'S US OR THE PLANT! T-THANK JUPITER IT'S UNDER CONTROL NOW...

GATHER UP THE REMAINS... BY STUDYING THEM WE CAN DETERMINE HOW TO CONTROL THE MONSTER! THE REASON WE FOUND NO OTHER LIFE ON PHARAOH IS NOW APPARENT... THE PLANT DESTROYED EVERY OTHER FORM OF LIFE! BUT WE...

L-LOOK... MOVING TOWARD US...!



THE ALARM SOUNDED EERILY THROUGHOUT THE SPACE-STATION, SUMMONING ALL INHABITANTS TO THE LAUNCHING PLATFORM. FEARFUL MINUTES TICKED BY, AND THEN...

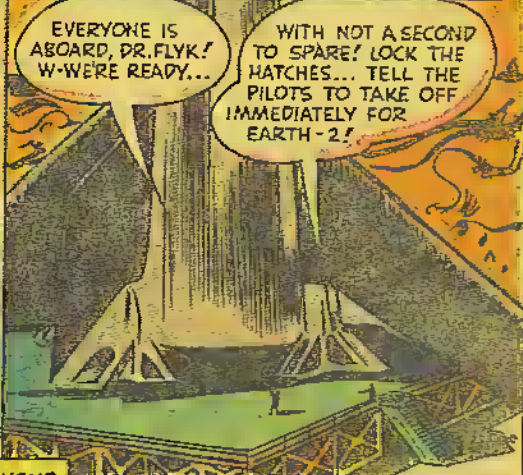
T-THE PLANT... IT ISN'T DEAD! IT'S MOVING AGAIN... GROWING...

SOUND THE EMERGENCY ALARM! T-THE SPACE-STATION MUST BE ABANDONED AT ONCE!



EVERYONE IS ABOARD, DR. FLYK! W-WERE READY...

WITH NOT A SECOND TO SPARE! LOCK THE HATCHES... TELL THE PILOTS TO TAKE OFF IMMEDIATELY FOR EARTH-2!

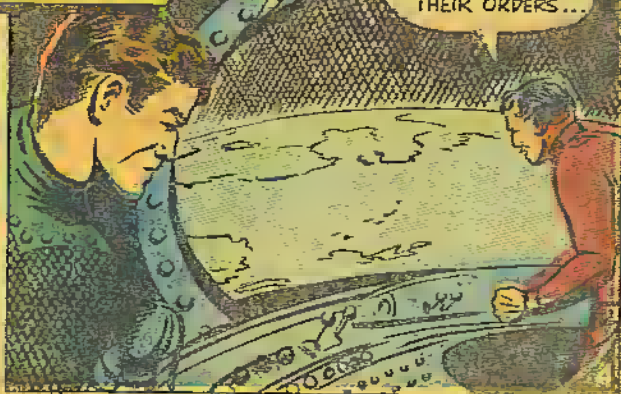
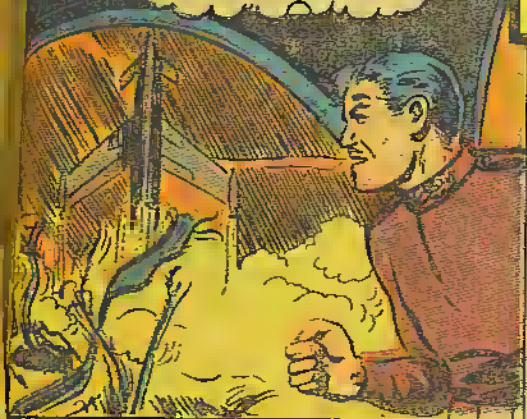


THE DEADLY TENTACLES REACH FOR US EVEN NOW! SOMETHING ABOUT OUR CHEMISTRY MADE THE PLANT GROW WITH SAVAGE SPEED... FORCED US TO ABANDON THE SPACE-STATION TO IT!

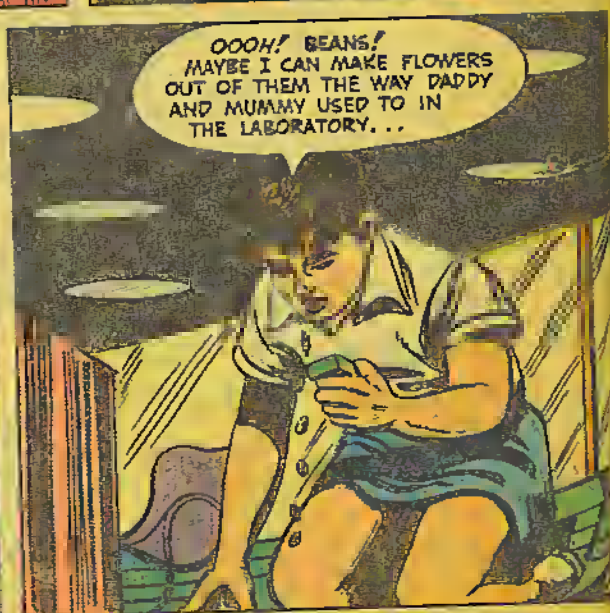
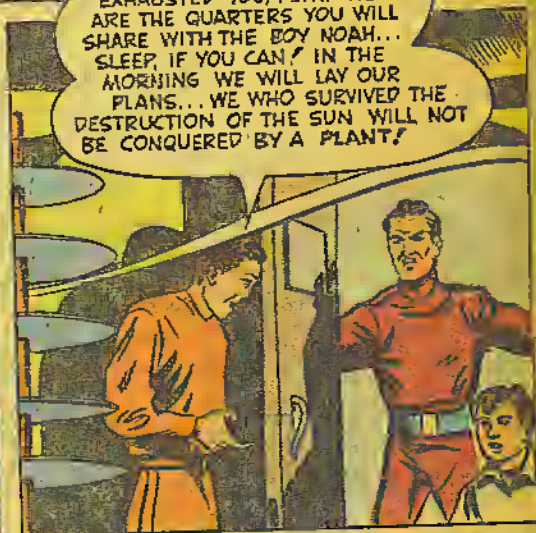
FOR AN HOUR AT AWESOME SPEED, THE SPACE-SHIPS HURTTLED THROUGH THE AIR. EARTH-2 CAME INTO VIEW AT LAST...

CENTRAL CONTROL CALLING, SIR! WE'VE BEEN ADVISED TO LAND IN THE SOUTH SECTOR...

THE QUARANTINE AREA, EH? CAN'T BLAME THEM... AFRAID WE MAY BE BRINGING DISASTER WITH US! FOLLOW THEIR ORDERS...



SPACE ADVENTURES



SPACE ADVENTURES

1-IT'S ONLY PLAYING...
BUT I'LL POUR WATER OVER
THE BEANS AS IF THEY
REALLY WERE FLOWERS...

T-THEY LOOK LIKE THOSE
THINGS IN THE OTHER HOUSE...
THE BAD THINGS THAT
GRABBED ME AND...

W-WAKE UP... SEE
WHAT CAME OUT
OF THE BEANS...

THE F-FLOWER OF
PHARAOH! HERE ON
EARTH-2! I MUST ALERT
THE SPACEPORT GUARDS
BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...!

1-IT SEEMS TO HAVE
SOME SIXTH SENSE! KEEPING
ME FROM USING THE VIDEOPHONE!
QUICK, NOAH... RUN OUT AND
TELL THE MEN NEARBY TO
HURRY HERE! GO, BOY...
SPEED!

Y-YES...
I'LL
TELL...

1-IT'S
GOT ME...

IF IT EVER GETS
STARTED HERE, THERE'S
NO CONTROLLING IT! AND
NO PLACE ELSE FOR THE
HUMAN RACE TO FLEE
TO! M-MUST RAISE THE
ALARM... MUST...

THIS SCREAM
OF ALARM
CHOKED IN HIS
THROAT, DR.
JON FLYK IS
SLOWLY STRANGLING.
IN ANOTHER
MOMENT THE
BOY IS DEAD...

...AND IN THE SILENCE OF THE LITTLE
ROOM ON EARTH-2 THE FLOWER FROM
PHARAOH...
GROWS... GROWS... GROWS...

The
END